

REGULAR WEEKLY SESSION-----ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL

April 19, 2004

2:00 p.m.

The Council of the City of Roanoke met in regular session on Monday, April 19, 2004, at 2:00 p.m., the regular meeting hour, in the City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, Virginia, with Mayor Ralph K. Smith presiding, pursuant to Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, City Council, Section 2-15, Rules of Procedure, Rule 1, Regular Meetings, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, and pursuant to Resolution No. 36414-070703 adopted by the Council on Monday, July 7, 2003.

PRESENT: Council Members Linda F. Wyatt, William D. Bestpitch, M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., C. Nelson Harris and Mayor Ralph K. Smith----- 7.

ABSENT:-----0.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The invocation was delivered by Elizabeth Hutcheson Fetter, Presiding Clerk, the Religious Society of Friends.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Ralph K. Smith.

PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-CITY MANAGER-CITY INFORMATION SYSTEMS: Susan Benton, Director of Strategic Initiatives, The Center for Digital Government, advised that The Center for Digital Government is an international research and advisory institute that, for the past 20 years, has studied how cities, counties, states and the Federal Government are using technology, because it is known that technology is at the foundation of quality of life and economic development. She stated that one of the City of Roanoke's mottos is, "City for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century-A Thriving Community"; the City has used technology

as a tool and as the result of excellent leadership over the past three years, Roanoke has won the Digital Cities Survey Award from The Center for Digital Government and Government Technology Magazine. She added that no other city the size of Roanoke can boast of this accomplishment and the award was made possible because City Council showed strategic vision about what the community should be and the use of technology to get there, and Council provided the necessary resources to the City Manager which enabled her to work with City staff to move forward in order to reach the Council's vision. She stated that the award is referred to as the Doer's, Dreamer's and Driver's Award, and represents a description of City Manager Darlene Burcham who has shown leadership, a commitment to the organization, an ability to work through the multiple layers of City government, and regional government and she has served as a champion for excellence.

On behalf of The Center for Digital Government, Ms. Benton presented the City Manager with the "Doer's, Dreamer's and Driver's" Award.

PROCLAMATIONS: The Mayor presented a proclamation declaring April 18-24, 2004, as National Medical Laboratory Week.

PROCLAMATIONS-LIBRARIES: The Mayor presented a proclamation declaring April 18-24, 2004, as National Library Week.

### CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor advised that all matters listed under the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine by the Members of Council and would be enacted by one motion in the form, or forms, listed on the Consent Agenda, and if discussion was desired, that item would be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately. He called specific attention to one request for a Closed Session.

MINUTES: Minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on Monday, March 1, 2004, recessed until Friday, March 5, 2004, and recessed until Monday, March 15, 2004; and the regular meeting of Council held on Monday, March 15, 2004, were before the body.

Mr. Dowe moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with and that the minutes be approved as recorded. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

CITY COUNCIL: A communication from Mayor Ralph K. Smith requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), was before the body.

Mr. Dowe moved that Council concur in the request of the Mayor to convene in a Closed Meeting as above described. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

COMMITTEES-HOUSING/AUTHORITY: A report of qualification of Nancy F. Canova as a member of the Fair Housing Board for a term ending March 31, 2007, was before Council.

Mr. Dowe moved that the report of qualification be received and filed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

#### REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

**BUDGET-CABLE TELEVISION:** A communication from Council Member Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., City of Roanoke representative to the Roanoke Valley Regional Cable Television Committee, advising that the City of Roanoke, the County of Roanoke and the Town of Vinton jointly operate Roanoke Valley Television (RVTV); initial equipment and facilities for the television station were funded through a \$480,000.00 capital grant from Cox Communications; the station is located at The Jefferson Center and currently employs five full-time staff members; and staff produces videos and shows for local governments and school systems for cablecasting along with government meetings on Cox Communications' Channel 3.

It was further advised that on June 8, 1992, Council approved the Roanoke Valley Regional Cable Television Agreement, which requires that the RVTV Operating Budget be approved by the governing bodies of the City, County and Town; and funding for the operating budget is shared by the three governments, based on the annual proportion of Cox subscribers located in each jurisdiction.

It was explained that the Roanoke Valley Regional Cable Television Committee approved the RVTV Operating Budget for fiscal year 2004-05 at its March meeting; the budget totals \$293,865.00 and represents a seven per cent increase from the current year's budget of \$273,614.00; the increase, excluding Personal Services (VRS Retirement, Salaries, Health Insurance, etc.), is \$3,624.00 or four per cent; and the majority of the increase occurs in Retirement: the 2003-04 rate was 7.5 per cent and the 2004-05 rate is 13.5 per cent, which is a \$9,403.00 increase.

It was noted that Cox Communications paid a five per cent franchise fee to the local governments in 2003, or \$1,818,001.00; the local governments have traditionally agreed to allocate up to 20 per cent of the franchise fees collected to the RVTV Operating Budget; for the coming year, the amount would be \$363,300.00; and RVTV's requested budget of \$293,865.00 is \$69,435.00 less than the amount.

It was advised that Cox calculates the percentage of subscribers in each locality (as of December 31, 2003) as follows:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Subscribers</u>	<u>Percentage (%)</u>
City of Roanoke	32,295	55
Roanoke County	23,664	40
Town of Vinton	2,718	5

Based on the above figures, the contribution by each locality to the Operating Budget would be as follows:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Contribution</u>
City of Roanoke	\$161,626.00
Roanoke County	\$117,546.00
Town of Vinton	\$14,693.00

Mr. Dowe recommended that Council approve the proposed RVTV budget for fiscal year 2004-05, in the amount of \$293,865.00, with the City's contribution totaling \$161,626.00.

Mr. Dowe offered the following resolution:

(#36657-041904) A RESOLUTION approving the recommendation of the Roanoke Valley Regional Cable Television Committee to approve the annual operating budget for Fiscal Year 2004-2005 for the operation of the regional government and educational access station, Roanoke Valley Television (RVTV, Channel 3), and for the City to provide partial funding.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 68, Page 408.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36657-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith----- 7.

NAYS: None-----0.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

CITY MANAGER:

BUILDINGS/BUILDING DEPARTMENT: The City Manager introduced Carl S. Cooler, who will assume his position as Building Commissioner, Department of Planning Building and Development, effective April 19, 2004.

BRIEFINGS:

ELECTIONS: The City Manager advised that at the Council meeting on Monday, April 5, 2004, Council requested a briefing by the Registrar on the proposed touch screen voting machines which are proposed to be used in future City of Roanoke elections; whereupon, she called upon Beryl Brooks, Registrar.

Ms. Brooks introduced Gary Greenhalgh, Project Manager for the City of Roanoke, who will be present for the next three local elections, upon execution of a contract with Election System and Software (E. S. & S.). She stated that electronic voting machines will be used in the November 2004 Presidential Election, although the touch screen voting machines will be available at some of the City's precincts during the May 4, 2004 Councilmanic election for demonstration purposes.

In response to questions and discussion by Council, Ms. Brooks advised that:

- The new equipment is user friendly, with larger print and the ability to change or correct votes before the voter casts his or her final vote.
- State law requires at least one voting machine per every 750 registered votes. The City proposes to purchase machines based on the realm of between 500 and 750 registered voters.
- Both City maintenance staff and maintenance staff of Election System Software will be available to address problems if any, on Election Day.
- The electronic voting machines will be taken into the community and demonstrations will be provided for any group or organization requesting onsite instruction.
- In selecting a vendor, size of the company, financial information, number of staff to be made available to service the City during a large election such as the Presidential Election in November, 2004, and turn around time to deliver the new equipment once the order is placed was considered.

- Remarks by citizens who tested the equipment on Citizens Appreciation Day at Valley View Mall on Saturday, April 17, 2004, were positive.

A touch screen voting machine was displayed in the Council Chamber and Members of Council were invited to participate in a demonstration during the Council meeting recess.

**BUDGET:** The City Manager presented the City of Roanoke's proposed fiscal year 2004–2005 budget. She advised that one of the assumptions that City staff made in developing the budget was that the Governor's proposed budget would be adopted by the General Assembly which, to date, has not occurred. She acknowledged that there could be changes in the proposed budget over the next several weeks should the General Assembly choose to do otherwise, and the Council will be informed as to the progress and the impact on the City's proposed budget proposal. She stressed that the most significant budgetary issue before the General Assembly at this point appears to be the level of funding for education in terms of the amount of money that would be available in the fiscal year 2005 budget and the impact on staffing. The City Manager called upon Sherman Stovall, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget, for presentation of highlights of the proposed budget.

Mr. Stovall advised that the proposed fiscal year 2005 budget was developed during a time of challenge and uncertainty; Roanoke and other local jurisdictions have been faced with the task of balancing a jurisdiction budget while the Virginia House of Delegates and the State Senate continues to debate over a State budget; the uncertainty in State funding and the lack of sufficient growth in State revenues has been disappointing; the challenges that Roanoke faces are the same as those of other governments; i.e. the rising cost of employee health care and retirement, increased demands for high levels of services and the continuing need to make investments in capital projects that are crucial to sustaining the viability of Roanoke. At the same time, he stated that the City of Roanoke is absorbing the cost of traditionally State funded activities, such as law enforcement, jail operations, and the operations of Constitutional Officers. On behalf of the City Manager and the Director of Finance, he presented a recommended fiscal year 2004–05 budget that is balanced, without an increase in any existing tax rate or any new tax.

In summary, Mr. Stovall provided the following information:

- The recommended budget totals \$211.9 million, an increase of \$7.1 million, or 3.47 per cent over the current years' adopted budget.
- Anticipated growth in local revenue totals \$5.5 million and growth in intergovernmental revenue totals \$1.5 million.
- Local revenues are enhanced by the continued strength of the real estate market and revenue from the real estate tax is expected to grow by \$3.5 million.
- Property values increased by approximately six per cent while new construction added another 1.2 per cent to the tax base.
- Other local taxes that contribute to the strength of the local economy include the personal property tax, with anticipated growth of 1.7 per cent; the prepared food and beverage tax, with anticipated growth of three per cent; the business license tax with anticipated growth at 2.4 per cent; the sales tax at 5.8 per cent; and the transient room, or lodging tax, at 5.1 per cent.
- A decline in the revenue is expected from the bank stock tax.
- The revenue estimate for personal property tax was established prior to development of the personal property tax book, so there may be a need to adjust the estimate prior to adoption of the budget.
- State revenue is expected to grow by 3.4 per cent; however, the majority of revenue is dedicated to State mandated programs, only a small portion is available for discretionary use, and approximately \$1.5 million is dedicated to Social Services.



- Over the past ten years, average growth in revenue received by the City from the State has been approximately six per cent; the level of State funding continues to reflect a decrease in funding for support of the City's Constitutional Officers and operation of the Jail.
- \$3.2 million in anticipated growth in revenue is recommended to be dedicated as the local share to Roanoke's schools; approximately \$4.3 million is recommended for employee compensation benefits and other employee programs which include an average pay raise of three per cent for City employees and funding for an increase in the cost of health insurance, retirement and life insurance.
- \$1.2 million is recommended to cash fund debt service, provide for maintenance of City buildings, and replace key pieces of equipment.
- \$1 million is recommended for new programs and program adjustment.
- \$1.5 million is recommended in regard to position reductions and holding positions vacant.
- The budget includes another \$1 million in miscellaneous adjustments and savings.
- The local share of school funding is based on a funding formula of 36.42 per cent of the adjusted local tax base; therefore, total level of funding provided to the school system is approximately 25 per cent of the total General Fund budget.
- Since fiscal year 2001, Council has budgeted an additional \$570,000.00 as part of a multi year plan to build debt service capacity to support capital projects.

- It is intended to issue bonds in fiscal year 2005 for Phase II of the Police Administration Building, Phase I of the Fire/EMS facilities improvement plan, the Riverside Centre for Research and Technology, the renovation of Patrick Henry High School, Phase II of Civic Facilities Improvements and Phase I of the Downtown West Parking Garage plan.
- The recommended budget contains \$604,000.00 to continue a multi year effort to increase the level of funding for equipment replacement, capital maintenance of City buildings, street paving, and technology; and with the exception of technology, additional funding in this category is less than what is required to keep on track to reach the established fiscal year 2007 funding targets.
- A recommended new program is the Police Cadet Program which is designed to enhance the City's efforts to recruit potential police officers and to free up time for sworn officers in order to focus on serious incidents and community policing. The program will target 18 – 21 year old persons who are interested in law enforcement careers, and bridge the gap between the time that young adults are no longer eligible to participate in the Police Explore Program and the time that they reach the minimum age to become a police officer. Police Cadets will also serve as Park Rangers, providing security presence in the City's parks.
- Approximately \$139,000.00 is recommended for parks, recreation and beautification activities including such items as playground safety improvements, maintenance of greenways, tennis court resurfacing, expanding the hanging basket program, and providing additional funding for the therapeutic recreation program.
- Additional funding is recommended for tipping fees as a result of increased tonnage collected at the Roanoke Valley Landfill.

- Additional funding is recommended for contractual obligations which include the full year cost of the City's share of the new Regional Animal Control facility, and the lease of space at Civic Mall for the Social Services Department.
- \$40,000.00 is recommended for the Emergency Assistance Program which is administered by the Social Services Department and focuses on providing emergency rent or utility assistance to prevent evictions or terminations.
- Additional funds or subsidies are recommended to Valley Metro as a result of the increasing health care costs, and to the Civic Facility Fund for the addition of two maintenance positions.
- A total of six positions will be added in the Civic Facilities Fund to address the cleanliness and maintenance of the Civic Center.
- Additional funding is recommended for community agencies.
- The recommended budget includes a new reduction of 13 General Fund positions, which reduction is in positions and not people.
- With creation of the Western Virginia Water Authority, a total of 190 General Fund, Water Fund and Sewer Fund positions will be transitioned to the Water Authority.
- It is recommended that 18 positions be left vacant during the year which is the same level of vacant positions included in the fiscal year 2004 budget; and other reductions total approximately \$1 million.

In closing, Mr. Stovall advised that City staff has attempted to develop a budget that is responsible and addresses the priorities of Council and Roanoke's citizens; given the challenging times, every request and every need could not be accommodated; and an attempt was made to minimize the impact on service delivery and service levels. He expressed appreciation to support staff from the Department of Management and Budget and the Department of Finance and acknowledged the input of Constitutional Officers, Council Appointed Officers, department directors and division managers in the development of the fiscal year 2005 budget. He expressed appreciation to the entire family of City employees for the dedicated and professional manner in which they have performed their duties in difficult times, and he advised that a public hearing on the recommended budget is scheduled for Thursday, April 29, 2004, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber.

#### ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

**ROANOKE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP:** The City Manager submitted a communication advising that at the January 20, 2004 Council meeting, Carl Cooper, Chair, Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates (RNA), presented the RNA's By-Laws and Strategic Business Plan for consideration; and Council referred the documents to the City Manager for staff review and to the City Attorney for preparation of the proper measure for consideration by Council at a future meeting; whereupon, the City Manger forwarded copy of the revised documents.

Mr. Bestpitch offered the following resolution:

(#36658-041904) A RESOLUTION approving the By-Laws and Strategic Business Plan for Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 68, Page 409.)

Mr. Bestpitch moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36658-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

**BUDGET-PARKS AND RECREATION-WATER RESOURCES:** The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Mill Mountain Water Project is designed to increase the storage, pressure and fire flow capacity for the top of Mill Mountain and the Ivy Street neighborhood; the project consists of a 150 gallon per minute pumping station, an 84,000 gallon water storage tank, and installation of approximately 5,200 lineal feet of eight-inch waterline; the new storage tank replaces two existing smaller tanks on Mill Mountain with no overall increase in height; and tank design has been reviewed by the Mill Mountain Advisory Committee.

It was further advised that the project was publicly advertised for bids, with four bids having been received on Tuesday, March 16, 2004; the lowest bid was submitted by E. C. Pace Co., Inc., in the amount of \$706,472.00, with a construction time of 180 consecutive calendar days, and with the inclusion of a contingency; the requested amount for the project will be \$777,000.00; funding in the amount of \$777,000.00 is requested to complete the project and is available as follows: \$180,000.00 in Account No. 002-530-8397, Crystal Spring Water Treatment Construction, \$200,000.00 in Account No. 002-510-2178-9026, Unidentified Plant Replacement, and \$249,537.00 in Account No. 002-510-2178-9028, Water Maintenance-Painting, with the balance of funds, \$147,463.00, to be taken from Water Fund retained earnings.

The City Manager recommended that Council approve the transfer and/or appropriation of funds in the amount of \$777,000.00 to an account to be established in the Water Fund by the Director of Finance entitled, Mill Mountain Water Project.

Mr. Dowe offered the following ordinance:

(#36659-041904) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding for the Construction Contract Award for the Mill Mountain Water Project, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2003-2004 Water Fund Appropriations and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 68, Page 410.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36659-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

BUDGET-STREETS AND ALLEYS-GRANDIN VILLAGE: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that Council has discussed on numerous occasions improvements for the 1300 block of Grandin Road in the vicinity of Memorial Avenue, which improvements involve installation of new curbs, sidewalks, street trees, conduit for future street lights, and new water and sewer lines; and improvements are supported by neighborhood organizations in the area.

It was further advised that two bids were received on Tuesday, March 16, 2004, with E. C. Pace Co., Inc., submitting the low bid in the amount of \$864,155.00; and funding for the project, which includes funds for miscellaneous project expenses, including advertising, prints, test services, minor variations in bid quantities, and unforeseen project expenses is available as follows:

Transportation - Street Paving	001-530-4120-2010	\$ 98,650.00
Water - Capital Outlay	002-510-2178-9026	\$126,660.00
WPC - Lateral Maintenance	003-510-3170-9085	\$169,510.00
Traffic Signals - General	008-052-9560-9084	\$ 28,900.00
Capital Improvement Reserve - VDOT	008-530-9575-9210	\$164,722.00
Traffic Calming Initiatives	008-530-9799-9003	\$143,518.00
Curb, Gutter, Sidewalk #1	008-530-9804-9076	\$218,040.00
Total		\$950,000.00

The City Manager recommended Council authorize transfer and/or appropriation of the required funding of \$653,830.00, in accordance with amounts above described to an account to be established in the Capital Projects Fund by the Director of Finance entitled, "Grandin Road Streetscapes"; and transfer funding in the amount of \$126,660.00 and \$169,510.00 to new accounts in the Water and Water Pollution Control Funds, respectively, to be similarly titled, for the utility portion of the project.

Mr. Cutler offered the following ordinance:

(#36660-041904) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding for the Grandin Road Streetscapes Project, amending and reordinaing certain sections of the 2003-2004 General, Water, Water Pollution Control and Capital Projects Funds Appropriations and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 68, Page 411.)

Mr. Cutler moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36660-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: NONE-----0.

**TRAFFIC-STATE HIGHWAYS-GREENWAY SYSTEM:** The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) requires City Council resolutions documenting the City's support of a project in advance of placing the project in the State's Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP); the draft SYIP published in March by VDOT fully funds 10<sup>th</sup> Street improvements, Wonju Street extension, and places 13<sup>th</sup> Street back into the program, with partial funding in fiscal year 2005; and in accordance with the 20-Year Long Range Transportation Plan endorsed by a resolution adopted by Council on October 23, 2003, a few small projects have been added to the draft SYIP, which include an intersection improvement at Riverland Road, Bennington Street, and Mt. Pleasant Boulevard, traffic signal systems equipment upgrades, and inclusion of recently received safety grant funds for enhancements to the proposed Lick Run Greenway crossing at 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

It was further advised that resolutions for the three major projects of 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Wonju Street, and 13<sup>th</sup> Street have been adopted by Council in prior years; however, the three small project awards will require separate project programming resolutions to enable inclusion in the SYIP to be adopted by the Commonwealth Transportation Board on May 20, 2004; therefore, the City Manager recommended that Council adopt separate project programming resolutions for each of the three small projects as above described.

Mr. Cutler offered the following resolution:

(#36661-041904) A RESOLUTION requesting that the Virginia Department of Transportation establish an urban system highway project for improvements to the intersection of Riverland Road, Bennington Street and Mt. Pleasant Boulevard.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 68, Page 413.)

Mr. Cutler moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36661-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe.

Liz Belcher, Coordinator, Roanoke Valley Greenways, expressed appreciation for the work of City staff to review long range transportation plans which revealed that numerous projects would not be included in the State's Six Year Plan for quite some time; therefore, an effort was begun by City staff to look at what is realistic from a transportation standpoint, and to identify ways to fund the projects, such as the intersection of Riverland Road and Mount Pleasant Boulevard. She stated that grant opportunities were reviewed and City staff prepared a Virginia Department of Transportation application for safety improvements to Tenth Street for the greenway crossing. She expressed appreciation for the vision that has been implemented throughout the City to make Roanoke a liveable and walkable community.

Mr. Chris Craft, 1501 East Gate Avenue, N. E., requested that the City address a dangerous traffic situation at the intersection of Bennington Street, Riverland Road and Mount Pleasant Boulevard, S. E.

Resolution No. 36661-041904 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

Mr. Dowe offered the following resolution:

(#36662-041904) A RESOLUTION requesting that the Virginia Department of Transportation establish an urban system highway project to upgrade signal equipment within the City's traffic signal systems.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 68, Page 414.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36662-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.



Mr. Dowe offered the following resolution:

(#36663-041904) A RESOLUTION requesting that the Virginia Department of Transportation establish an urban system highway project for improvements to 10th Street and the proposed Lick Run Greenway.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 68, Page 415.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36663-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

BUDGET-POLICE DEPARTMENT-DRUGS/SUBSTANCE ABUSE-YOUTH: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the City of Roanoke Outreach Detention/Electronic Monitoring Program provides court-ordered, pre-dispositional, intensive supervision of juveniles living within the community; program services are provided to juveniles who reside in the City of Roanoke and other jurisdictions such as Roanoke County, Botetourt, Salem, Craig County, and Alleghany County; each outside jurisdiction pays for services provided; the fiscal year 2003-04 revenue estimate for Outreach Detention/Electronic Monitoring Services is \$30,000.00; and it is anticipated that actual revenue will exceed the estimate in the amount of \$18,490.00.

It was further advised that in accordance with State mandates, all program revenue must be used for services that are specifically outlined in the Board approved VJCCCA plan, and excess revenue must be appropriated for program activities.

The City Manager recommended that Council increase the General Fund Revenue estimate by \$18,490.00 in revenue Account No. 001-110-1234-1310, and appropriate funding in the amount of \$18,490.00 to the following accounts:

001-631-3330-1004	Temporary Wages	\$10,720.00
001-631-3330-3070	Equipment Rental	\$ 7,770.00

Mr. Dowe offered the following ordinance:

(#36664-041904) AN ORDINANCE to increase funding for the Outreach Detention/Electronic Monitoring Program, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2003-2004 General Fund Appropriations and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 68, Page 416.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36664-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

BUDGET-HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Fifth District Employment and Training Consortium (FDETC), under an agreement with the Virginia Department of Social Services, received funding to operate the Opportunity Knocks Program; and since closing of the FDETC, the City of Roanoke Department of Social Services will be continuing operation of the Opportunity Knocks Program until June 30, 2004.

It was further advised that Employment and Training Services have been provided by the Department of Social Services to assist disadvantaged individuals in obtaining full time employment, with the potential of higher paying wages and fringe benefits; and services will be reimbursed through the Virginia Department of Social Services.

The City Manager recommended Council authorize acceptance of the grant award, appropriate funds totaling \$42,500.00, and establish a revenue estimate of \$42,500.00 in a grant account to be established by the Director of Finance.

Mr. Bestpitch offered the following ordinance:

(#36665-041904) AN ORDINANCE to establish funding for the Opportunity Knocks Grant, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2003-2004 Grant Fund Appropriations and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 68, Page 417.)

Mr. Bestpitch moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36665-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

Mr. Fitzpatrick offered the following resolution:

(#36666-041904) A RESOLUTION authorizing the acceptance of a grant from the Virginia Department of Social Services to be used to operate the Opportunity Knocks Program until June 30, 2004; and authorizing the execution of the necessary documents.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 68, Page 418.)

Mr. Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36666-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

**DONATIONS/CONTRIBUTIONS-FIRE DEPARTMENT:** The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Fire Brigade of the Kazim Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S. wishes to donate a 1941 American LaFrance antique fire truck, ID#BG169, to the Roanoke Fire-EMS Department; and the equipment is a very rare piece of fire apparatus which would be used in parades, placed on display and used for educational purposes.

It was further advised that City of Roanoke Fleet Management personnel have inspected the fire truck and consider the equipment to be in good condition, with low maintenance needs, and if accepted, the unit would be housed in a Fire-EMS station for safe keeping, maintenance and static display; and the value of the fire truck exceeds \$5,000.00 which requires approval by Council to accept as a donation.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to accept the above referenced fire apparatus.

Mr. Bestpitch offered the following resolution:

(#36667-041904) A RESOLUTION accepting the donation of a 1941 American LaFrance Antique fire truck for use by the City of Roanoke's Fire/EMS Department, and expressing appreciation for such donation.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 68, Page 419.)

Mr. Bestpitch moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36667-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

CITY ATTORNEY:

CITY CODE-COMMITTEES-PENSION: The City Attorney submitted a written report with regard to a request of Council to eliminate the residency requirement pertaining to one member of the Board of Trustees of the City of Roanoke Pension Plan; whereupon, he transmitted an ordinance amending the City Code which will eliminate the residency requirement regarding the retired member of the Plan who serves pursuant to §22.2-8(b)(6).

Mr. Dowe offered the following ordinance:

(#36668-041904) AN ORDINANCE amending subsection (b)(6) of §22.2-8, Board of Trustees generally, Article 2, Administration, Chapter 22.2, Pensions and Retirement, of the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, in order to eliminate the residency requirement with respect to the retired member of the plan appointed to serve on the Board of Trustees of the City's Pension Plan, as currently set forth in §22.2-8(b)(6); and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 68, Page 421.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36668-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

STATE HIGHWAYS-TREES: The City Attorney submitted a written report advising that at the April 5, 2004 meeting of Council, the matter of supporting an application filed by Will Webb with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to plant white oak seedlings along certain sections of I-581 within the City of Roanoke was referred to the City Attorney for preparation of a resolution; whereupon, he transmitted the appropriate measure for consideration by Council.

Mr. Bestpitch offered the following resolution:

(#36669-041904) A RESOLUTION supporting the application filed by Will Webb with the Virginia Department of Transportation to plant white oak seedlings along certain sections of I-581 within the City of Roanoke.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 68, Page 422.)

Mr. Bestpitch moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36669-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

DONATIONS/CONTRIBUTIONS-SCHOOLS: The City Attorney submitted a written report advising that in 1948, there was an agreement between G. G. and Ollie P. Fralin and the Roanoke County School Board to exchange two parcels of property in Roanoke County adjacent to what is now Oakland Intermediate School, but the necessary deeds were not recorded; in 1949, the City of Roanoke annexed the area surrounding what is now Oakland Intermediate School from Roanoke County; the City of Roanoke became vested in the Roanoke County School Board property as a part of the annexation; on July 12, 1982, Council adopted Ordinance No. 26116, authorizing the City Manager to convey the City's portion of the land to be conveyed pursuant to the 1948

exchange agreement to the Fralin family, however, Council did not at that time accept conveyance of the property to be conveyed by the Fralin family which is currently used as the teachers' parking lot at Oakland Intermediate School; and the School Board has utilized the triangular parcel of property that the Fralin family seeks to convey to the City as a parking lot since the area was annexed in 1949, and desires that title to the parcel of land be obtained.

It was further advised that the Fralin family would like to convey this portion of property to the City of Roanoke so that the Fralin family may sell the remaining portion of its property to a third party; whereupon, the City Attorney transmitted an ordinance authorizing acceptance of the property, once the deed is recorded, for consideration by Council.

Mr. Dowe offered the following ordinance:

(#36670-041904) AN ORDINANCE accepting from the Estate of Ollie P. Fralin the conveyance of a certain parcel of property for school purposes containing 0.183 acre, more or less, located on the northeasterly side of Williamson Road adjacent to Oakland Intermediate School and identified as a portion of Tax Map No. 3160127; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 68, Page 423.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36670-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD: The 2003 Annual Report of the Architectural Review Board was before Council.

(For full text, see report on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Without objection by Council, the Mayor advised that the report would be received and filed.

BUDGET-SCHOOLS: A communication from the Roanoke City School Board requesting the following appropriations and transfers was before Council:

- \$158,740.00 from the 2003-04 Capital Maintenance and Equipment Replacement Fund to provide for VHF hand-held radios, site-based capital maintenance equipment, and facility alteration requirements;
- \$96,406.00 from the School Food Services Fund Balance to provide for food service equipment;
- \$7,500,000.00 from Virginia Literary Fund initial construction costs for the Patrick Henry High School project;
- \$298,977.00 from Virginia Public School Authority Bonds to reflect actual revenues received for school projects;
- \$225,000.00 for the Patrick Henry High School project, said funds will be transferred from the Capital Improvement Reserve for the modular unit setup and installation at Patrick Henry;
- \$210,000.00 for increased fuel and heating costs, said funds will be transferred from the Contingency for State sales tax deficit.

The Director of Finance submitted a written report recommending that Council concur in the request of the School Board.

Mr. Cutler offered the following ordinance:

(#36671-041904) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding for equipment from the Capital Maintenance and Equipment Replacement Program (CMERP) and from the School Food Service Fund balance, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2003-2004 School, School Capital Projects and School Food Service Funds Appropriations and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 68, Page 425.)

Mr. Cutler moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36671-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

# INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

BUDGET-CITY COUNCIL: Mr. Dowe offered the following resolution establishing a Special Meeting of Council to be held on Thursday, April 29, 2004, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber, for the purpose of holding public hearings on the recommended City Budget for Fiscal Year 2004-2005, the proposed HUD Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Year 2004-2005, and effective increase in the City's proposed real property tax rate:

(#36672-041904) A RESOLUTION establishing the dates and times for a Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Roanoke.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 68, Page 427.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36672-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

BUDGET-COMMITTEES-SCHOOLS: Mr. Harris offered the following resolution establishing a Special Meeting of Council to be held on Thursday, May 13, 2004, at 2:00 p.m., in Council Chamber, for the purpose of adopting measures in connection with the 2005 fiscal year budget, and appointment of two Trustees to the Roanoke City School Board:



(#36673-041904) A RESOLUTION establishing the date and time for a Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Roanoke.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 68, Page 428.)

Mr. Harris moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36673-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

#### MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

#### INQUIRIES AND/OR COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR, VICE-MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL:

POLICE DEPARTMENT-ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Council Member Cutler commended the Roanoke City Police Department- Citizens Police Academy, which was named 2004 Agency of the Year by the National Citizens Police Academy Association at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual NCPAA Convention in Austin, Texas.

ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-YOUTH: Council Member Bestpitch advised that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and commended the Children's Advocacy Center of the Roanoke Valley for its work with regard to child abuse prevention.

SCHOOLS: The Mayor announced that Council will entertain comments by citizens at the 7:00 p.m., Council meeting with regard to applicants for the position of Roanoke City School Trustee. He advised that Linda F. Wyatt has withdrawn her application. Applications were submitted by the following persons prior to the deadline on Monday, April 19, 2004, at 12:00 p. m.:

Dennis M. Binns  
Chris H. Craft  
Robert R. Craig  
David M. Dabay  
John W. Elliott, Jr.  
Roddy L. Hiduskey

Glenda D. Lee  
Alvin L. Nash  
Courtney A. Penn  
Samuel Robinson  
Linda F. Wright

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised that Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard and matters requiring referral to the City Manager will be referred immediately for any necessary and appropriate response, recommendation or report to Council.

No citizens requested to be heard.

#### CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

ACTS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-CITY EMPLOYEES-YOUTH-DECEASED PERSONS: The City Manager commended City employees who participated in Citizens Appreciation Day on Saturday, April 17, 2004, at Valley View Mall. She advised that Saturday, April 17, was also Youth Services Day and commended the hundreds of young people who volunteered their Saturday to give service to others in the Roanoke community. She also advised that a service in memory of Ms. Greta Evans was held on Saturday, April 17, 2004, in recognition of the many contributions by Ms. Evans to the Roanoke community.

At 3:50 p.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess for one Closed Session.

At 4:20 p.m., the meeting reconvened in the Council Chamber, with all Members of the Council in attendance, Mayor Smith presiding.

COUNCIL: With respect to the Closed Meeting just concluded, Mr. Bestpitch moved that each Member of City Council certify to the best of his or her knowledge that: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in any motion by which any Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by City Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: The Mayor advised that there is a vacancy on the Human Services Committee, to fill the unexpired term of Cynthia S. Bryant, ending June 30, 2004; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Ms. Wyatt placed in nomination the name of Randy L. Leftwich.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Leftwich was appointed as a member of the Human Services Committee, to fill the unexpired term of Cynthia S. Bryant, ending June 30, 2004, by the following vote:

FOR MR. LEFTWICH: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

COMMITTEES-PENSIONS: The Mayor advised that there is a vacancy on the City of Roanoke Pension Plan, created by the resignation of D. Duane Dixon, for a term ending June 30, 2004; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Ms. Wyatt placed in nomination the name of Michael W. Hanks.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Hanks was appointed as a member of the City of Roanoke Pension Plan, to fill the unexpired term of D. Duane Dixon, resigned, ending June 30, 2004, by the following vote:

FOR MR. HANKS: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----7.

Inasmuch as Mr. Hanks is not a City resident, Ms. Wyatt moved that the City residency requirement be waived in this instance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and unanimously adopted.

VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE: The Mayor advised that the following persons have been nominated by Council to serve on Virginia Municipal League Policy Committees:

Council Member Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr.	- Transportation
Council Member M. Rupert Cutler	- Environmental Quality
Council Member Alfred T. Dowe, Jr.	- Human Development and Education
Jesse A. Hall	- Finance
William M. Hackworth	- General Laws

At 4:25 p.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess until 7:00 p.m., in the City Council Chamber.

At 7:00 p.m., on Monday, April 19, 2004, the Council meeting reconvened in the City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, Virginia, with Mayor Ralph K. Smith presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members Linda F. Wyatt, William D. Bestpitch, M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., C. Nelson Harris and Mayor Ralph K. Smith-----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Mayor Smith.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Smith.

PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NONE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

COMMITTEES-CITY COUNCIL-SCHOOLS: The City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 19, 2004, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to receive citizen comments with regard to the appointment of two Trustees to the Roanoke City School Board for three year terms of office, commencing July 1, 2004 and ending June 30, 2007, the matter was before the body.

Council previously extended the deadline for receipt of applications from March 10, 2004 at 5:00 p.m., until Monday, April 19, 2004, at 12:00 p.m. Applications were received in the City Clerk's Office from the following persons:

Dennis M. Binns	Glenda D. Lee
Chris H. Craft	Alvin L. Nash
Robert R. Craig	Courtney A. Penn
David M. Dabay	Samuel Robinson
John W. Elliott, Jr.	Linda F. Wright
Roddy L. Hiduskey	Linda F. Wyatt (Withdrawn by Ms. Wyatt)

Advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* and in *The Roanoke Tribune* on Thursday, April 8, 2004 and Thursday, April 15, 2004.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to speak in connection with the matter; whereupon, the following persons addressed the Council:

Ms. Vickie Royer, 3772 Norway Avenue, N. W., spoke in support of the application of Alvin L. Nash. She advised that:

- Mr. Nash is just, fair and unbiased, with an unwavering compassion to those issues that he chooses to champion.
- He is an excellent mediator who is trusted by citizens of the community to make the best decision for all persons involved.
- He would bring a sense of calm in the midst of a storm to the School Board.
- He exemplifies true leadership and integrity and his expertise will be valuable in times of crisis and confusion.
- As a co-worker and as a supervisor, he is neither condescending nor boastful.

- He strives to be available to help with problems that arise, and with the unrest and distrust that exist in the school community today, the qualities of Mr. Nash will be a much needed asset.

Ms. Marcia Gunn, 3816 Panorama Avenue, N. W., spoke in support of the application of Alvin Nash, who is also her brother. She advised that:

- He has always been a strong, constitutional man who wants to make the right choices and do the right things in life; he is a man of diligence, community based and loves people, community-wide.
- He is a person who wants to help and to be a part of the solution.
- He has worked long hours to achieve his many accomplishments; he is dependable, direct and wishes to make a contribution to the progress of the City.

Ms. Annette Lewis, 4606 Casper Drive, N. E., spoke in support of the application of Alvin Nash. She advised that:

- Having known Mr. Nash for over ten years, she has been impressed by his skills, which make him an excellent candidate for continued membership on the School Board.
- He is fiscally responsible, intelligent, opened minded, fair and decisive.
- As Executive Director, Blue Ridge Housing Development Corporation, he has the responsibility of managing a multi million dollar budget through government, civic and local contracts, which would not be possible without the training and leadership that he provides to his staff by keeping them abreast of ever changing policies, procedures, regulations and requirements that govern a successful organization.
- He is wise enough to know that it is necessary to weigh both sides of any issue in order to make informed decisions; and he does not hesitate to take the time to do the necessary homework to ensure that he is knowledgeable about the issues that he is called upon to address.

- He treats his staff, colleagues, friends and acquaintances with respect, valuing the opinion of all, regardless of their background or differences of opinion.
- He is not afraid to make difficult decisions, even though difficult decisions are often unpopular.
- The art of negotiation is one of his greatest skills and he has already brought those skills to the School Board.

Ms. Lewis encouraged Council to reappoint Mr. Nash to the School Board in order to continue his work for the benefit of students, teachers, administrators, and citizens.

Mr. Thomas Miller, 3429 Windsor Road, S. W., spoke in support of the candidacy of Linda F. Wright. He advised that:

- Ms. Wright has a great commitment to children and to their education which is evidenced by her 30 years of service to the children of the Roanoke Valley, 21 years as an educator in the City of Roanoke and nine years as an educator in Roanoke County in the capacity of teacher, administrator and principal.
- She is a parent who raised her children in Roanoke City Public Schools and she currently has a child enrolled in the Roanoke City school system.
- She has been actively involved in the Roanoke City School system, while holding a full time job in the Roanoke County School system.
- As an applicant, she is unique because of her background as an educator; many times policies and practices are implemented by a School Board or a central office, yet the practical implication of what takes place and how it impacts the schools on a daily basis is not considered; therefore, Council has the unique opportunity to appoint an educator to the School Board who can provide the necessary input on how policies and procedures will affect teachers, resource officers, principals and the entire school community.

- She has experienced, first hand, some of the problems and discomfort that others have experienced in the Roanoke City Public Schools, which gives her a unique perspective on how the school system has failed students and families.

Mr. Miller requested that Council favorably consider the application of Ms. Wright as a member of the Roanoke City School Board.

Mr. Roy White, 3009 Dover Drive, S. W., spoke in support of the application of Linda Wright. He advised that:

- He has two children in the Roanoke City Schools and serves as Ms. Wright's Pastor at Raleigh Court United Methodist Church, where she is a member of the Staff Parish Relations Committee.
- During difficult and traumatic issues concerning church staff, he has counted on her expertise as a professional and as an administrator to help navigate personnel issues.
- She is an administrator who has earned the respect of students because they know she is interested in their well being.

Mr. White requested that Council give serious consideration to the application of Ms. Wright for appointment to the Roanoke City School Board.

Ms. Stephanie Dickinson, 3101 Hubbard Road, S. W., spoke in support of the application of Linda Wright. She advised that:

- She (Ms. Dickenson) is Youth Director at Raleigh Court United Methodist Church, where she has known Ms. Wright through their shared ministry and friendship in the faith community.
- Her passion is the protection, nurturing and development of young people in the Roanoke Valley.
- The School Board has a unique opportunity to benefit from the wealth of knowledge and experience offered by Ms. Wright as an educator.



- She has served as a first, fourth and fifth grade teacher, as an instructor to gifted children in Roanoke City Schools; as Principal at Garden City and Westside Elementary Schools; and she succeeded in educating children from white/ethnic/minority families who are challenged by low income and she recognizes and addresses all sides of the issue.
- She was involved in staff development in the Roanoke City Schools and has served as Principal at Penn Forest Elementary School for nine years, therefore, she knows the necessary requirements to provide quality instruction.
- The School Board is directed with the responsibility of managing the school system through employment and evaluation of the School Superintendent and establishing policy and budgets; Ms. Wright has served under a number of School Superintendents during her career and will offer a valuable perspective in connection with selection of a new School Superintendent.
- Penn Forest Elementary School is undergoing major renovations at this time, therefore, she knows how a school building impacts learning.
- When reviewing the present membership of the School Board, there is a diversity of professionals ranging from financial, medical, legal, housing and social work backgrounds, some of which have long experience in serving on Parent-Teacher Associations, and this group of individuals would benefit from the depth of experience in education that Ms. Wright would bring to the School Board.
- It is the responsibility of the School Board to ensure that the public understands the school system's goals and programs, therefore, Ms. Wright's knowledge, integrity and compassion would build public support and trust in Roanoke City Public Schools.

Mr. Craig Balzer, 6329 Spring Run Drive, spoke in support of the candidacy of Alvin Nash. He advised that:

- He (Mr. Balzer) currently serves as Chair of the Blue Ridge Housing Development Corporation where Mr. Nash is Executive Director, and they have worked together on numerous issues which have allowed Mr. Nash to brief the Board of Directors on pertinent matters and to enlist the support of the Board to ensure that he was not stepping outside of his bounds of authority.
- He takes the roles that he assumes seriously and when he takes on a job, he does not allow other duties and responsibilities to suffer.

Ms. Lisa Updike, 2803 Woodlawn Avenue, S. W., spoke in support of the application of Linda Wright. She advised that:

- The Roanoke City School system has been under much scrutiny and much of the speculation and judgments have been negative; therefore, the expertise of Ms. Wright is needed to change the perception of negativity; and Council has the power to impact a negative situation by appointing the right School Board members.
- The School Board is charged with the responsibility of hiring a new school Superintendent who will carry Roanoke City Schools through the next decade; if the City is to stem the perception of negativity, it is vital that School Board members possess a background in the workings of education. She would provide an insider's knowledge that others from different careers could not provide and her input would be invaluable in allowing the School Board to lead with confidence and authority, making and implementing decisions that will save the community from costly and embarrassing problems that could occur in the future.

Ms. Updike requested that Ms. Wright's wealth of experience and devotion to service not go to waste; and her dedication to education and to children makes her the most valuable person to be appointed to the School Board.

Mr. Rick Moore, 3004 Northview Drive, S. W., spoke in support of the application of Linda Wright. He advised that he is the parent of three children enrolled in the Roanoke City Schools, therefore, he wants the City's school system to succeed. He advised that:

- Ms. Wright will bring the perspective of teacher, principal, and parent to the School Board, which will also help the School Board through troubled times.
- Her expertise on classroom issues and strong community commitment makes her the right choice for the Roanoke City School Board because she cares about children, teachers and the City and would be an asset to the Roanoke City School Board.

Ms. Trisha Edwards, 3045 Poplar Lane, S. W., spoke in support of the application of Linda Wright. She advised that:

- Ms. Wright comes with no established agenda, other than to be an advocate for the children and the parents of the City of Roanoke.
- As a principal, she is familiar with the Code of Virginia and requirements of the State Department of Education; and as the parent of a child enrolled in Roanoke City schools she has knowledge of day to day activities in the schools.

Ms. Edwards advised that Ms. Wright will be an asset to the Roanoke City School Board, and requested that she be appointed to the position of School Trustee.

Mr. Robert Craig, 701 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S, W., advised that the School Board's budget makes the cost of the stadium/amphitheater project small in comparison, in addition to the \$90 million bond issue, both of which are issues that will be of major importance the School Board. He stated that the City Code provides that Council will select members of the Roanoke City School Board from those applications filed with the City Clerk by March 10, therefore, absent an amendment to the City Code, it was cavalier of the Council to extend the period for receipt of applications to April 19, 2004.

Ms. Allison Blanton, 1701 Arlington Road, S. W., spoke in support of the application of Linda Wright. She advised that:

- Ms. Wright has children who have gone through elementary, middle and high school in the Roanoke City Public School system.
- She is dedicated to children by placing them first and foremost.
- She is held in high regard because of her clear commitment to children and education; she is strong in staff development and not only does she care about the children, she also cares about teachers and other staff.
- A wide array of talents exist on the present School Board, but concern for teachers may be lacking and Ms. Wright would bring this ingredient to the School Board.

Ms. Blanton encouraged Council to appoint Ms. Wright to the Roanoke City School Board.

There being no further speakers, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Mr. Fitzpatrick moved that Council convene in Closed Session to discuss two vacancies on the Roanoke City School Board, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith -----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wyatt abstained from voting.)

**ZONING:** Pursuant to instructions by Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 19, 2004, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on a request of Echo Sentinel Group, L.L.C., to repeal conditions approved pursuant to Ordinance No. 35070-100200 and to replace such conditions with new proffered conditions, with regard to property located at 3509 Peters Creek Road, N. W., identified as Official Tax No. 6421133, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Friday, April 2, 2004, and Friday, April 9, 2004.

The City Planning Commission submitted a written report advising that the petitioner requests that proffers enacted pursuant to Ordinance No. 35070-100200 be repealed and replaced with the following proffered conditions:

That the property will be developed in substantial conformity with the Schematic Site Plan for Echo Sentinel Group, prepared by ACS Design, under date of March 1, 2004, subject to any changes that may be required by the City during comprehensive site development plan review;

That the property will be developed in substantial conformity with the Front Elevation Plan dated January 8, 2004, prepared by Alam Design Group, subject to any changes that may be required by the City during comprehensive building plan review; and

If a freestanding sign is erected on site, it shall be limited to a monument style sign with a maximum height of ten feet and a maximum signage surface area of 50 square feet; the sign shall have an appearance similar to and use materials like those proposed for the building elevation indicated on Exhibit 4.

The petitioner further requests that a new site plan and front building elevation be substituted for the existing plans binding on the subject property as enacted in 2000; and the newly proffered site plan notes the following:

- A building with a footprint of 2,500 square feet, oriented to Lewiston Street and sited with its front corner situated 33 feet from the right-of-way of Peters Creek Road (minimum front yard on Peters Creek Road is 30 feet; secondary front yard requirement on Lewiston is 15 feet);

- A 30 foot curb cut on Lewiston Street;
- 18 off-street parking spaces, three of which are in a covered parking area, plus two handicap accessible spaces;
- Street trees as required by Code; and
- A ten foot wide evergreen screening buffer along the southern property line adjacent to a residentially-zoned property as required by Code.

The petitioner further proffers a front elevation that delineates a brick façade, two-story building, with an attached covered parking area.

The City Planning Commission recommended that Council approve the request for amendment of proffers, given the appropriateness of proffered conditions in terms of scale and density of the development, minimizing access to the site, off-street parking and signage, and developing a two-story building.

Mr. Dowe offered the following ordinance:

(#36674-041904) AN ORDINANCE to amend §36.1-3 and 36.1-4, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, and Sheet No. 642, Sectional 1976 Zone Map, City of Roanoke, by repealing Ordinance No. 35070-100200, placing certain conditions on Official Tax No. 6421133, and replacing such conditions with new conditions on the subject property which is conditionally zoned C-1, Office District, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 68, Page 430.)

Mr. Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36674-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler.

Joseph Lohkamp, Co-Owner, Sentinel Group, LLC, appeared before Council in support of the request.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to be heard in connection with the matter. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

Because of the lack of hardiness of Bradford pear trees, Council Member Cutler suggested that another species of trees be considered as a part of the site plan.

There being no further discussion or comments by Council Members, Ordinance No. 36674-041904 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris and Mayor Smith -----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

CITY PROPERTY-LEASES-COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA BUILDING: Pursuant to instructions by the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 19, 2004, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on an extension of an existing lease with the United States Federal Government, General Services Administration, of a portion of City-owned property known as the Commonwealth Building, located at 210 Church Avenue, S. W., for office space through October 31, 2004, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Friday, April 9, 2004.

The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the United States General Services Administration (GSA) leases the second floor of the Commonwealth Building for use by the Federal Bankruptcy Court and affiliated offices, the lease agreement expired on January 31, 2004, however, the original agreement provides the GSA with an option to continue the agreement on a month-to-month basis (not to exceed 90 days), if the GSA retains possession of the premises beyond the expiration date; and the GSA is currently exercising its option and is interested in continuing the lease of the second floor, as well as initiating the lease of an additional office suite on the first floor.

It was further advised that currently, the GSA leases 12,413 square feet on the second floor of the Commonwealth Building; current lease rate is \$6.50 per square foot plus \$4.07 per square foot for operating costs; the agreement requires an annual increase of operating costs based on the Consumer Price Index 1982 - 1984 = 100; current total annual rent is \$131,290.08; the GSA has agreed to lease an additional office suite on the first floor upon completion of renovations designed to meet the needs of the Bankruptcy Court; current construction schedule for the additional space lists an anticipated completion date around the end of August; the GSA is prepared to execute an agreement with the City of Roanoke for the additional space when construction is completed; the current lease agreement must be extended until the new space is ready for occupancy; and upon completion of the new space, a new agreement will be required to include all leasable space.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to offer and to execute an extension of the existing lease between the City of Roanoke and the General Services Administration through October 31, 2004, to allow appropriate time for renovation of the first floor office suite and completion of the new lease agreement, with all documents to be approved by the City Attorney.

Mr. Fitzpatrick offered the following ordinance:

(#36675-041904) AN ORDINANCE authorizing the extension of an existing lease between the City of Roanoke and the General Services Administration of the United States of America for the lease of certain space in the Commonwealth Building, located at 210 Church Avenue, S. W., for a period ending October 31, 2004; authorizing the City Manager to execute the requisite lease extension agreement; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 68, Page 431.)

Mr. Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36675-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to be heard in connection with the matter. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.



There being no discussion or comments by Council Members, Ordinance No. 36675-041904 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

DONATIONS-CITY PROPERTY-HOSPITALS: Pursuant to instructions by the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 19, 2004, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on the proposed conveyance of portions of City-owned property located at the intersection of Yellow Mountain Road and Jefferson Street, S. E., Official Tax No. 4060502, to Carilion Medical Center for expansion purposes, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Friday, April 9, 2004.

The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the City of Roanoke currently owns property located adjacent to Roanoke Memorial Hospitals, and Carilion Medical Center is proceeding with expansion of the hospital and is in need of a portion of the property which jogs into the Carilion site; and Carilion Medical Center has agreed to purchase the property from the City at its appraised value.

It was further advised that a plat was prepared subdividing City-owned, Official Tax No. 4060502; the 0.427 acre "Parcel B" and the 0.026 acre "Parcel D" as shown on Attachment No. 1 to the communication is the area proposed to be conveyed to Carilion Medical Center; an appraisal was prepared by Miller, Long & Associates, Inc., on February 24, 2004, for Parcel B; the fee simple market value was determined to be \$95,000.00, or \$5.11/square foot; Parcel D has been added since the appraisal, but is of a similar location and nature; and extending the same square foot price to Parcel D would bring the appraisal for both parcels of land to \$100,780.00.

The City Manager recommended sale of the property to Carilion Medical Center for \$100,780.00 by special warranty deed, such deed to be approved as to form by the City Attorney.

Mr. Fitzpatrick offered the following ordinance:

(#36676-041904) AN ORDINANCE authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents providing for the conveyance of a .0427 acre parcel and a 0.026 acre parcel of City-owned property known as Parcel B and Parcel D, respectively, being portions of Official Tax No. 4060502, located adjacent to Roanoke Memorial Hospital, to Carilion Medial Center, as shown on a plat from records and boundary line adjustments for Carilion Medical Center showing the resubdivision of Official Tax No. 4060502, containing 58.189 acres and dated March 24, 2004, upon certain terms and conditions, and contingent upon approval of the City's subdivision plat; and dispensing with the second reading of this ordinance.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 68, Page 433.)

Mr. Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36676-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to be heard in connection with the matter. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

There being no discussion or comments by Council Members, Ordinance No. 36676-041904 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

EASEMENTS-CITY PROPERTY-ROANOKE GAS COMPANY: Pursuant to instructions by the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 19, 2004, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on the proposed conveyance of a ten-foot by ten-foot easement across City-owned property located in Jackson Park, S. E., Official Tax No. 4130501, to Roanoke Gas Company for relocation of an eight-foot high relief valve from the northern side of Morningside Street, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Friday, April 9, 2004.

The City Manager submitted a communication advising that pursuant to Ordinance No. 36532-102303, Council approved the request of Roanoke Gas Company for a ten-foot by ten-foot easement on City-owned property located in Jackson Park, S. E., in order to relocate an eight-foot high relief valve from the northern side of Morningside Street; the contractor installing the valve failed to locate the valve within the specified easement area; and Roanoke Gas Company is requesting that the easement area be revised to accommodate the actual location of the valve, which is approximately 53' from the property line adjacent to Langhorn Street, instead of 27'11" as shown on the original request.

Following the public hearing, the City Manager recommended that she be authorized to execute the appropriate document granting the easement as above described to Roanoke Gas Company, said document to be approved as to form by the City Attorney.

Mr. Cutler offered the following ordinance:

(#36677-041904) AN ORDINANCE authorizing the donation and conveyance of a ten-foot by ten-foot easement on City-owned property known as Jackson Park, identified by Official Tax No. 4130501, to Roanoke Gas Company, to relocate an eight foot high valve from the northern side of Morningside Street to fifty-three feet from the property line adjacent to Langhorn Street, upon certain terms and conditions; dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 68, Page 434.)

Mr. Cutler moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36677-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to be heard in connection with the matter. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

There being no discussion or comments by Council Members, Ordinance No. 36677-041904 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris  
and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

EASEMENTS-CITY PROPERTY-CABLE TELEVISION: Pursuant to instructions by the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 19, 2004, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on the proposed conveyance of a perpetual five foot wide by 130 foot long easement across City-owned property located at Franklin Road, S. E., Official Tax No. 4016004, to Cox Communications, Inc., to provide telecommunications service to a building located at 111 Franklin Road, S. E., the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Friday, April 9, 2004.

The City Manager submitted a communication advising that Cox Communications, Inc., (Cox) has requested a perpetual five foot wide by 130 foot long easement to locate telecommunications facilities on City-owned property identified as Official Tax No. 4016004; the easement will permit installation of fiber optic cables, fixtures and appurtenances necessary to provide telecommunications services to the building located at 111 Franklin Road; if facilities located within the easement are removed, the easement shall become null and void; and Cox has agreed to pay \$1,850.00 for the easement.

Following the public hearing, the City Manager recommended that she be authorized to execute the appropriate documents granting a five foot wide by 130 foot long easement as above described to Cox Communications, Inc., to be approved as to form by the City Attorney.

Mr. Bestpitch offered the following ordinance:

(#36678-041904) AN ORDINANCE authorizing the donation and conveyance of a perpetual five foot by one hundred thirty foot easement on City-owned property at Franklin Road, S. E., identified by Official Tax No. 4016004, to Cox Communications, Inc., to install fiber optic cables, fixtures and appurtenances for the purpose of providing telecommunication services to the building located at 111 Franklin Road, S. E., upon certain terms and conditions; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 68, Page 435.)

Mr. Bestpitch moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 36678-041904. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to be heard in connection with the matter. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

There being no discussion or comments by Council Members, Ordinance No. 36677-041904 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised that Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard and matters requiring referral to the City Manager will be referred immediately for any necessary and appropriate response, recommendation or report to Council.

POLICE DEPARTMENT-COMPLAINTS: Mr. Robert Gravely, 729 Loudon Avenue, N. W., expressed concern with regard to legal issues, growth of the City of Roanoke based on the work of its citizens, the need for more jobs leading to a reduction in crime, respect for the work of people, compassion for people which will cause more persons to want to live in the Roanoke area, an improved relationship with the City's employee workforce, and the need for a program that will empower City employees to do their jobs in a better way.

At 7:50 p.m., the Council meeting was declared in recess for one closed session.

At 8:05 p.m., the meeting reconvened in the City Council Chamber, with all Members of the Council in attendance, except Ms. Wyatt, Mayor Smith presiding.

COUNCIL: With respect to the Closed Meeting just concluded, Mr. Bestpitch moved that each Member of City Council certify to the best of his or her knowledge that: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in any motion by which any Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by City Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Harris, and Mayor Smith-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wyatt was absent.)

SCHOOLS: Mr. Harris moved that Alvin L. Nash, Courtney A. Penn and Linda F. Wright receive the formal interview for the position of School Trustee on Thursday, April 22, 2004, in the City Council Chamber, said interviews to commence at 4:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted.

At 8:10 p. m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess until Thursday, April 22, 2004, at 4:30 p. m., in the City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, at which time Council will conduct interviews for two vacancies on the Roanoke City School Board.

The Monday, April 19, 2004, regular meeting of Roanoke City Council, which was recessed until Thursday, April 22, 2004, was called to order at 4:30 p.m., in the City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor Ralph K. Smith presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members Linda F. Wyatt, William D. Bestpitch, M. Rupert Cutler, Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., C. Nelson Harris, and Mayor Ralph K. Smith-----6.

ABSENT: Council Member Alfred T. Dowe, Jr.-----1.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

SCHOOL BOARD APPLICANTS PRESENT: Alvin L. Nash, Courtney A. Penn and Linda F. Wright.

The invocation was delivered by Mayor Smith.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Smith.

SCHOOLS: The Mayor advised that on June 30, 2004, the terms of office of Alvin L. Nash and Ruth C. Willson as Trustees of the Roanoke City School Board will expire; and the purpose of the reconvened meeting is to interview three candidates for two positions on the Roanoke City School Board, for three year terms of office, commencing July 1, 2004 and ending June 30, 2007.

The Mayor further advised that Council will publicly interview each candidate separately and out of the presence and hearing of the other candidates, and interviews have been scheduled in the following order:

4:30 p.m.	Alvin L. Nash
5:00 p.m.	Courtney A. Penn
5:30 p.m.	Linda F. Wright

The Mayor explained that each candidate will be given the opportunity to make an opening statement of not more than five minutes; and thereafter, Council will ask such questions as the Council, in its discretion, deems advisable. He stated that three interviews will be held and each interview will consist of approximately 30 minutes; after each interview has been completed, the candidate may leave the Council Chamber inasmuch as no action will be taken by the Council this evening; and all interviews will be taped by RVTV Channel 3 to be televised on April 26, 2004, at 11:00 a.m. and May 4, 2004, at 8:00 p.m.

The first person to be interviewed was Alvin L. Nash.

Mr. Nash expressed appreciation for the consideration afforded to him by the Council. He advised that:

- The past four months that he has served on the School Board have been more than he expected, but also one of the most rewarding experiences of his life.
- Education is the key ingredient to economic opportunity and leads to a healthy, productive life and environment.
- Students, parents, teachers and administrators make up the system which demands strong communication and cooperation.

- The pride and joy of any progressive community should be its educational system and education should be judged by not only what the well instructed prove to know, but more fully by what students are empowered to do in fulfilling their lives.
- The School Board is responsible to the community to ensure quality education and a safe environment; and fiscal responsibility and leadership are paramount for a productive school system.
- The School Board must be proactive and precise in its actions.
- One of his strengths is problem solving and relationship building.
- Over a period of time, he would introduce an agenda of changes to the School Board, such as a Superintendent of Education and a Director of Operations, in order to separate the bricks and mortar from the books, because the responsibility of Superintendent is too large and complicated for only one person, and the two positions would lead to a more sophisticated management system.
- The School Board should have a full time Clerk independent of the Office of Superintendent to address management issues and responsibility.
- It is important for the School Board to participate in focus group meetings with only teachers in attendance at least once per year in order to obtain input on various issues.
- The responsibility of “ambassador” should be added as the second or third priority of the new School Superintendent.
- He looks forward to participating in the selection of the next Superintendent because strong leadership is needed.



- It has been recommended to the School Board that the Chair rather than the Superintendent deliver the annual State of the Schools Address at the beginning of the school year, in order to bring the School Board closer to teachers and to students so that all parties understand that the School Board is a part of the vision, and the Board is in charge and aware of concerns.
- He offered a motion, which was approved by the School Board, to establish a School Incident Report, which will be the responsibility of the Superintendent and will be provided to the School Board on a nine week reporting cycle; the report will include every incident that occurs whether reported by the principal, teacher or the School Resource Officer; in situations where the reporting parties do not agree on a category of incident, the incident will be reported both ways, since it is important to receive all information; such reporting in and of itself will not make the schools safe, but having all information to process will lead to making better decisions; and the School Incident Report, along with School Safety Task Force results, will allow the School Board to continue working on issues of school safety, discipline, crime and violence.
- The School Board is in the “education” business by definition, but the Board is also in the “comfort” business by necessity, which means that if parents, teachers and students are not comfortable with what is happening in the schools, the School Board must examine the system.
- The next three years will be critical; Patrick Henry High School must be built within a tight budget and then make way for William Fleming High School improvements; a new School Superintendent must be hired; and the work of the School Safety Task Force must be processed and translated into policies that provide a reasonable expectation that the School Board cares about and knows what is going on in the schools.

- The City Manager has explained the importance of safe schools to the overall perception of the City of Roanoke in terms of businesses locating in the City and/or persons retiring to the area; the public image of the schools must be addressed because there are good things happening in Roanoke City Public Schools, with many excellent teachers and programs that must be promoted; there must be continued translation of policies in regard to the Standards of Learning and the No Child Left Behind Program; and he looks forward to being a part of the City's ongoing educational program.

Mr. Bestpitch asked the following questions:

In view of the importance of public image, and a perceived rift by the general public between City Council and the School Board, what are specific things that need to happen in order to ensure a strong cooperative working relationship between City Council and the School Board?

Mr. Nash referred to the "buddy system" which has some merit, but needs to be improved upon; there should be more meetings of the two bodies; there is a need for appointment of a public relations committee; School Board members should be more involved in the work of Council in order to promote the City; a type of reporting mechanism similar to that which currently exists between the Superintendent and the City Manager would be beneficial; and the relationship between Council and the School Board needs to be strengthened. He stated that he did not believe that there is a rift between Council and the School Board, but a lack of opportunities to work together.

If the Council and the School Board is to have a strong working relationship, or a partnership that includes not only the Council and the School Board, but the Superintendent and the school administration, how can teachers and other staff be made to believe that they are a part of the partnership?

Mr. Nash advised that the only way people feel comfortable or a part of something is to involve them in the process and spoke in support of working closer with Teacher Associations and Parent-Teacher Associations, because parents also need to feel a level of comfort in the relationship. He stated that a new structure needs to be looked at from the level of School Board and City Council, and then look at a mechanism(s) that will involve other persons involved in the school system.

Mr. Cutler asked the following questions:

With regard to school safety and those students who are unable to function in a regular school setting and are assigned to alternative education, do you have suggestions on how to capture the attention of these young people in order to keep them in school and to help them lead productive lives?

Mr. Nash advised that one of the problems is the collection of students who have experienced problems in the regular school setting; therefore, their social skills and attitudes and what they believe is proper and right is concentrated with each other and they become the general population; academics or activities that address their specific problems will help to keep them in school longer; and there is a need for more parental involvement at the Noel C. Taylor Learning Center as opposed to Patrick Henry High School for example. He stated that he served on a review panel regarding two student expulsions, and it was difficult to make the decision to expel the students because they were the victims of a certain type of social life, or a lack of alternatives; and even though basic academics are necessary, anger control and social skills must be intensified.

Do you see an opportunity to intensify anger control and social skills?

Mr. Nash advised that there is an opportunity to improve social teaching and social skills at a cost of time and money, but such is not now the agenda of the School Board. He called attention to a lack of programs for the alternative education student, he is committed to addressing the problem, it should be difficult for a student to be expelled from the school system, but at the same time there must be an established standard because the school system cannot tolerate a student who is a trouble maker.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked the following questions:

What is your perspective on where the City is with regard to educational excellence? The safety issue is very important, but it is not as bad as some persons have stated. Do you feel comfortable with the current level of education?

Mr. Nash advised that Roanoke City is close to being OK; Roanoke has an excellent educational/academic system, with good teachers and instructional mechanisms in place, but the school system needs to continue to work on education because education can always be improved upon; as the School Board searches for a new Superintendent, it will be looking at ways to address educational excellence to ensure that once the safety issues are addressed, or the perception of violence, etc., that Roanoke City is also in line with the Standards of Learning, the No Child Left Behind Program and academic discipline; and academic discipline is an exciting part of the school system and is the part that translates to the community that the City of Roanoke has a good school system and is an excellent place for children to be educated, which has not been in the forefront to date and calls attention to the need for strong public relations to counter balance some of the negative occurrences.

What can be done to help assure parents that the School Board is in control of school issues?

Mr. Nash advised that the School Board is not only in the "education" business, but in the "comfort" business as well, communication and public relations issues must be addressed, parents must receive the assurance that their children will experience a great educational challenge while forming relationships and friendships, Roanoke must provide the image that its schools are safe, more parental involvement is important, the school system should not be managed by crisis but through development of a plan leading to the right image and perception of Roanoke City Schools.

Mr. Fitzpatrick referred to an incident where a third grade student attacked a teacher and the negative response by the parent. He inquired if something can be done by the School system and the City collectively to overcome the negative attitudes by some parents.

Mr. Nash referred to his previous remarks concerning the issue of expelling students and advised that his hesitation to expel a student was not so much because of what the student did, but because of the student's lack of a support system at home; and a common problem would create a stronger relationship between Council and the School Board, and the motivation to encourage some parents to participate in their child's education and to display a more positive attitude is a difficult issue to address.

Vice-Mayor Harris asked the following questions:

Given the context that the school system is currently in, how serious will the School Board take the expulsion recommendations of the Superintendent and School Administration?

Mr. Nash advised that it is the responsibility of the School administration to ensure that all things have been done properly once a case reaches the School Board for expulsion consideration; there is no hesitation on the part of the School Board to act on expulsions because the School Board has the responsibility to protect the school system; it is the responsibility of the School administration to bring forth a good case and it should be very difficult for a student to be expelled; the Superintendent and administration almost always err on the side of being too tolerant; and the School Board is diligent in responding to an expulsion where background information is in order because the School Board must uphold the law and the integrity and protection of other students.

Given the City's current list of capital projects, from the standpoint of an individual School Board member and the School Board as a whole, what is the School Board prepared to do relative to the scale and cost of renovations to Patrick Henry and William Fleming High Schools?

Mr. Nash advised that the School Board understands the mandate of Council regarding debt service, and the Board has made a recommendation to adjust debt service; the School Board has learned to ask the right questions and to encourage the School administration to come to the School Board for guidance; and the Patrick Henry High School building plan is the first time that a project of this magnitude has occurred, therefore, certain estimating mistakes were made and the School Board is conscious of keeping the project under cost, while being fiscally responsible.

Council Member Wyatt did not participate in the interview.

The Mayor expressed an interest in the concept of having management oversee the school plant and an educator oversee the education component. He stated that he believes in the system of the election of Council by the citizens and School Board appointments by the Council, and called attention to an incident which occurred before Mr. Nash was appointed to the School Board when the School Board contradicted a majority decision of City Council. He advised that in the future, it is hoped that the School Board will follow the Council's lead. He stated that he had no questions to ask of Mr. Nash.

The second person to be interviewed was Courtney A. Penn.

Mr. Penn advised that:

- He is applying for the position of School Trustee due to personal and professional experiences that will allow him to be a valuable team member, thus adding to core competencies in areas of expertise of continuing School Board members.
- One of the assets he would bring to the School Board is his experience on the “book ends” of public education, and he knows the requirements in order to be successful on a college campus due to his personal experience at Washington and Lee University.
- He understands the importance of preparing preschool children for success in kindergarten.
- If selected to the School Board, he will bring a commitment to work collaboratively and hopes to be a part of a School Board that will work cooperatively with City Council to set a distinct course of action for the public education component of the City of Roanoke; and it is hoped that Council will have the faith and confidence in the School Board to allow the Board to protect the City's investment by implementing a vision for education.
- He has a vision of what is possible in Roanoke when there is courage to question leadership, to refrain from rash judgment, to investigate and when appropriate, to implement non-traditional initiatives; he has a vision for a school system that sows the seeds of competition and yields trust, respect, and engagement; he has a vision for a school system that makes communication a priority where decisions can be debatable but the rationale and relationship to the overall vision is clear, concise and thoroughly communicated to all stakeholders; he has a vision for Roanoke City Schools that engages the traditionally disengaged student to prepare

them for a future so that they can contribute to society rather than impose on society; and he has a vision of what is possible with continued courage, collaboration and communication.

- He is a native of Roanoke who returned to the Roanoke Valley approximately six years ago with two goals in mind upon his return: one: to get married and start a family and two: to contribute to the community that nurtured him; today, he and his wife are the parents of a five year old son and a nine month old daughter, and his son attends Fishburn Park Elementary School which causes him to be even more committed to his civic vision.
- He expressed appreciation to those who currently serve, or have recently served, on the School Board.
- There are challenges that must be addressed, but at the same time astounding progress is being made on the academic side of the school system that should not be overlooked, with test scores that continue to rise, the drop out rate has decreased, teacher quality is stronger than ever, and students and teachers are being recognized for various accomplishments throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- If all of the good things that the School administration and the faculty have accomplished is not recognized, the hard work of many dedicated professionals and support staff will be devalued.
- If appointed to the School Board, he will do everything in his power to return schools to the Roanoke community that are worthy of the children and the families that they serve.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked the following questions:

What are your ideas about addressing the school safety issue, whether perceived or realistic?

Mr. Penn advised that school safety is an issue as long as it is strongly perceived by a large segment of the community to be an issue; there is a need to continue to dwell on some of the good things that are happening in Roanoke's school in an effort to be more proactive; if students know that the City of Roanoke offers a good school system, they will be more energized to make the system stronger and that kind of perspective builds upon itself; and communication has been the major problem that allows the safety perception issue to prevail in Roanoke City Public Schools.

Vice-Mayor Harris asked the following question:

Based on your background or experiences, how would you contribute to shape or inform with regard to renovation/rebuilding of Patrick Henry and William Fleming High Schools?

Mr. Penn advised that he has no personal or professional experience with projects of this magnitude, but he understands his own personal checkbook and agrees with Council's sentiment to hold fast to a ten per cent debt service on the projects; a base line must be set with a commitment to take no debt over a certain amount; it is then incumbent upon the School Board and staff to look at the hard and soft costs of the project and determine how the project can be done for the amount of capital funds to be expended. He stated that although the matter is more complicated than dealing with a personal checking account, ultimately the principle is the same because of the need to look at what is to be purchased with a specified budget.

What are the top two qualifications you would look for in selecting the next School Superintendent?

Mr. Penn advised that a Superintendent is needed who will be seen as an active participant in the educational arena and the civic arena; and although he has the utmost respect for Dr. Harris who has done some great things for Roanoke City, the next Superintendent should be somewhat different. He stated that the next Superintendent should be more people centered, more engaged in what is happening in the community, more involved with parents and others, and a person who is willing to make a commitment to the educational side of the arena. In summary, he stated that he would look for a person who is people centered and educationally focused on outcomes.



Ms. Wyatt did not participate in the interview.

Mr. Bestpitch asked the following questions:

What needs to happen to ensure that a positive relationship exists between City Council and the School Board?

Mr. Penn advised that the perception is that there is a rift between City Council and the School Board, which ultimately demoralizes faculty and staff and makes it difficult for them to do their job. He stated that there must be open lines of communication; the ultimate responsibility for Roanoke City Schools lies with City Council; Council entrusts in seven individuals the authority to act and to accomplish a vision that will be collaboratively set; and if there is a vision that is collaboratively set, there must be dialogue and working relationships to accomplish the vision that should be regularly updated throughout the process. He encouraged that there be regular meetings between Council and the School Board to address issues that arise before the perception is created in the community that there is a rift between the two bodies.

If there is a good partnership that includes City Council, the School Board, the Superintendent and the School administration, the fifth component would be teachers and staff. What should be done to ensure that teachers and staff believe that they are a part of the partnership?

Mr. Penn advised that there is a need for teachers and staff to participate on committees and to provide input to the process of decision making, and it is important that School Trustees spend time in the schools with faculty and staff to learn about their concerns and triumphs in order to make well educated decisions.

Mr. Cutler asked the following questions:

What are non traditional ideas that could be applied to the students who are assigned to alternative education at the Noel C. Taylor Learning Center? How would you go about getting the attention of those students by encouraging them to stay in school and become productive students?

Mr. Penn advised that in order to engage this segment of the student population, it is necessary to invest in national efforts regarding the best available practices; it costs approximately \$77,000.00 a year to incarcerate a juvenile, but if only a few juveniles were averted from the juvenile justice system each year, additional resources would be available to reinvest in programs at the local level. He called attention to the importance of trying and evaluating new programs/ideas/concepts, and stepping out on courage.

How important is the career and technical education component of the high school curriculum?

Mr. Penn advised that career and technical education is a high priority because possessing those kinds of skills may enable a young person to earn a higher salary than operating a computer and/or writing a grant, etc.

Mayor Smith asked the following question:

How can the City attract a Superintendent who can operate the school plant proper while addressing the needs of educators?

Mr. Penn called attention to other localities where there has been a kind of new trend to hire non traditional chief executives in school districts; while he respects the type of training and time involved to receive the certifications for School Superintendent or for teacher, the next 15 years of education will involve attracting leadership that is willing to have the courage to step out of some of the traditional boxes when necessary; if there are other skills that are needed in totality with the certification process, it is hoped that those skills will be identified; and the certification process is important to ensure that the school system employs a staff with the required credentials and necessary educational course work in order to be effective.

Mayor Smith called attention to a strong statement that was recently made by City Council concerning the School system and immediately the School Board made a strong statement in opposition to the Council's statement. He stated that it is the responsibility of the sitting School Board to be accountable directly to City Council, City Council is elected directly by the citizens and is accountable to the citizens and when Council offers guidance regarding the school system, the School Board should listen and not express opposition.

The third and final person to be interviewed was Linda F. Wright.

Ms. Wright expressed appreciation for her consideration as a candidate for appointment to the Roanoke City School Board. She advised that:

- She does not take the recognition nor the job of School Trustee lightly.
- With the exception of the four years she attended college, she has been personally involved in the school system for 40 years; and she is a product and graduate of Roanoke City Public Schools, where she had many fine teachers who also became her mentors upon her return to Roanoke to teach at Monterey, Crystal Springs and Fishburn Park Elementary Schools.
- Following her classroom experience, she had the opportunity to work as a resource teacher for the gifted which afforded her the opportunity to work in several schools prior to an assignment to the central office working in staff development where she was responsible for not only the teacher training component, but training for administrators and evaluation of administrative skills.
- On the heels of those opportunities, she was assigned to serve as Principal at Garden City Elementary School where she worked for two years prior to moving to Westside Elementary School; following her tenure at Westside for five years, she assumed a position at Penn Forest Elementary School where she presently serves as Principal.
- Despite the fact that she is no longer employed by Roanoke City Public Schools, her involvement and support of the system has never wavered; her son presently attends Patrick Henry High School and her daughter graduated from Patrick Henry; she has continued to volunteer when possible, most recently as an Odyssey of the Mind coach at Woodrow Wilson Middle School during the 2002-2003 school year; and her experiences include student, teacher, administrator, parent and volunteer.

- She has a strong understanding of the people who are directly affected by the daily occurrences in the schools and the academic challenges with the No Child Left Behind Program Federal mandate.
- Her experiences, while child centered, are not limited to the field of education, as evidenced by community service records. A review of her application shows many interests such as church, soccer, boy scouts, educational boards at Virginia Western Community College, Mill Mountain Theater, and Odyssey of the Mind competitions, all of which are experiences that demonstrate her ability to work in team and leadership settings, and more importantly, serve as indicators of a strong desire to accept new situations and challenges. The skills garnered from these combinations of directed energies are not merely assets on a résumé relevant to her application, but the range of applied knowledge that is crucial to the future direction of Roanoke City Schools.
- She is an “outside the box” thinker, and a good listener who manages to use her skills to mediate difficult situations; her goal and approach in all connections to education has been and always will be to treat people in the way that she wishes to be treated; the majority of people who know her on either a personal or professional level would say that this is not only her goal, but it is evidenced consistently in her performance.
- She would not skirt any issue or ignore any situation of importance to the educational process in the Roanoke Valley; and she has worked tirelessly throughout her career to address and to improve the quality of education for those within her charge and will continue to do so wherever she may be working.

- The philosophy of education states that education is the greatest equalizer and the only real hope for a society which is increasingly diverse; without this tool, children are not able to break the cycle of poverty and violence in their lives; without constant effort, prejudice and visible or invisible class divisions cannot be overcome; without educational diligence, the bar for the elevation of society will not be raised; the quality of the educational system is the determiner of the future of this country, its culture and society; more so today than ever before, education must expand to address the needs of societal dynamics and those persons involved intimately in education must never lose sight of the fact that in the single institution that every American experiences, each of us leaves our mark; and the tenants and direction of the process must be applied equally if we are to move forward with quality education for the children of the Roanoke Valley and the future.

Ms. Wright requested favorable consideration by Council for appointment to the Roanoke City School Board, based on her experience, motivation, devotion and desire to assist in the leadership of the school division as it faces the immediate and long term challenges that are sure to come.

Ms. Wyatt did not participate in the interview.

Mr. Bestpitch asked the following questions:

As a School Board member, what are some of the things you would do to ensure that there is a positive relationship between Council and the School Board?

Ms. Wright advised that she tries to be a listener; she does not enter into any discussion thinking that she has all the right answers; and she would be willing to discuss concerns; she admitted that she has made mistakes along the way, but having served in the field of education and having matured to her present age, she has learned much and the first thing that needs to be done is to ask questions and then to listen to what others have to say without a predetermined decision.

Once there is a good working relationship among not just Council and the School Board, but also the Superintendent and School administration, how can teachers and school staff be brought into the partnership?

Ms. Wright advised that teachers and staff must be given the opportunity to provide input and it is necessary to listen to what they have to say because they are the people on the front lines who are the experts; they must be given the opportunity to share their concerns and they need to feel supported; and as she has visited schools throughout the City, the one comment she has heard repeatedly is that teachers are of the opinion that they do not have the support they need.

Dr. Cutler asked the following questions:

The School Board has addressed issues regarding the administration, problems in purchasing where competitive bids were not obtained, and the hiring of staff with criminal records, etc. How should the School Board address these kinds of problems?

Ms. Wright advised that first, there is a need to determine why the problems occurred, how were persons hired who had a criminal record when in this day and time everyone hired by any school division should have their references checked by the State Police Department; a process should be developed where certain questions are asked on a questionnaire to ensure that those same mistakes do not reoccur; she would do her homework and require that others involved in the process do their homework as well; and if school staff knew that the persons hired had criminal backgrounds, the School Board should look at those individuals and question whether they should continue to be employed with the Roanoke City Schools.

How can we address the group of students who have been assigned to alternative education at the Noel C. Taylor Learning Center and cause them to be motivated and to graduate from high school?

Ms. Wright advised that the needs of this segment of the student population must be addressed sooner than their needs are currently being addressed; having worked in elementary schools for the majority of her professional career, she encountered children at the elementary school level who needed assistance when they were seven years old, therefore, there is a need to develop a program that would provide for placement for those children

who are demonstrating these types of concerns early on; class sizes could be lowered to one to six students, with the necessary number of guidance counselors, etc.; and a key component is involvement of parents by attending parenting classes, school visits, and more frequent parent-teacher conferences. he called attention to the need to intervene at a much earlier age because by the time students are in high school, it is difficult to provide the lifeline they need.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked the following questions?

What are your thoughts in regard to safety in the Roanoke City Public Schools and what is the role of the School Board in addressing the issue?

Ms. Wright advised that perception is reality and families are leaving the City every day because there is a perception that certain of Roanoke's schools are not safe. She advised that a lot of time has been spent in trying to get Roanoke City Schools recognized nationally, but recognizing Roanoke City Schools locally has been forgotten. She advised that her children were fortunate to have great teachers, her daughter graduated from Patrick Henry High School and had no issues; however, her son happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and became a victim; prior to that occurrence her response to people was, if you go about your business, stay out of the way of other people, do not give them a hard time, everything will be all right; however, her perspective since her son became a victim of school violence has changed. She called attention to policies currently in place in the Roanoke City Schools; there is a need to ensure that students on high school campuses are interested in earning their diploma; there is a need to look at alternatives for those students who are not interested in obtaining their diploma through the regular school environment; and there is a need to look at those students who have been removed from school grounds for whatever reason and evaluate whether or not they should be allowed to return to the school campus. She advised that there is a need to admit that certain issues need to be addressed, to deal with issues up front, and to provide the necessary resources to help administrators and teachers address problem areas.

Vice-Mayor Harris asked the following questions:

As the School Board searches for a new School Superintendent, what are the two top qualities you would look for in the next Superintendent?

Ms. Wright advised that the next Superintendent should be a strong instructional leader who has demonstrated the ability to bridge the gap between what goes on in the classroom on a daily basis and the big picture as administrator for the entire school division; the person selected for the position will have a difficult job because Roanoke City Schools will go through a healing process and a Superintendent will be needed who can make the difficult calls and be a good evaluator with compassion.

The renovation/rebuilding of Patrick Henry and William Fleming High Schools represent two significant capital projects which are probably the two largest capital projects the City has undertaken in terms of dollars. What background or experiences would you bring to the School Board to help inform and to shape decisions on the two projects and how will your experiences help you to ask the right questions, etc.?

Ms. Wright advised that upon visiting the two high schools, she was saddened to see the physical condition of both schools. She advised that her contributions as the projects move forward will be the realization that Roanoke is not building just a building, but a learning environment; and she would offer guidance in designing the buildings in such a way as to provide for a safer and a more flexible learning environment. In summary, she stated that she would be an advocate for the instructional piece of the building component.

Mayor Smith asked the following question:

What skills will be needed in the next Superintendent to ensure that the Superintendent manages both the school plant and the school staff, while at the same time possessing the necessary requirements of academia?

Ms. Wright advised that a smart manager, principal, or leader does not believe that he or she can do every aspect of the job by themselves; they look for those persons who have the skills that they may not be strong in and give that person, with direction, the flexibility to do their job. She stated that it is important to employ persons who can bridge the gap not only between instruction but between other staff such as teachers, bus drivers, or custodians; and a school division does not operate solely on the skills of the Principal or the Superintendent, but on the skills of teachers, custodians, bus drivers, and other support staff. In summary, she stressed the importance of selecting a Superintendent who has good management skills in order to bridge the gap where he or she does not have certain expertise.



Mayor Smith called attention to a recent incident in which a majority of City Council Members made a strong statement to the School Board regarding the School system, and immediately following issuance of the statement, the School Board made a statement that was counter to the Council's statement. He advised that the School Board is responsible to and serves at the pleasure of City Council who is directly accountable to the people, therefore, the School Board should follow the guidance of City Council.

The Mayor advised that at a Special Meeting of Council on Thursday, May 13, 2004, at 2:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, Council will appoint two Trustees to the Roanoke City School Board, for terms commencing July 1, 2004 and ending June 30, 2007.

COUNCIL: Mr. Harris offered the following resolution changing the time of commencement of the regular meeting of Council scheduled to be held at 9:00 a.m., on Monday, May 3, 2004, to 10:00 a.m., on that date:

(#36679-042204) A RESOLUTION changing the time of commencement of the regular meeting of City Council scheduled to be held at 9:00 a.m., on Monday, May 3, 2004.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 68, Page 436.)

Mr. Harris moved the adoption of Resolution No. 36679-042204. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cutler.

Mr. Bestpitch offered an amendment to the resolution to change the meeting location from the Council Chamber to Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building. The amendment was seconded by Mr. Cutler and adopted.

Resolution No. 36679-042204, as amended, was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Cutler, Fitzpatrick, Harris and Mayor Smith-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Dowe was absent.)

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting in recess until Friday, April 30, 2004, at 12:00 p. m., for the Regional Leadership Summit to be held at Jackson River Sports Complex in Covington, Virginia.

The City Council meeting reconvened on Friday, April 30, 2004, at 12:00 noon at the Jackson River Sports Complex, West Edgemont Drive, Covington, Virginia, for a meeting of representatives of the Regional Leadership Summit.

PRESENT: Council Members William D. Bestpitch, M. Rupert Cutler and Mayor Ralph K. Smith-----3.

ABSENT: Council Members Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., C. Nelson Harris and Linda F. Wyatt-----4.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; and Sheila N. Hartman, Assistant City Clerk.

Also present were: Wayne G. Strickland, Secretary, Fifth Planning District Regional Alliance; and members of City Councils/Boards of Supervisors and staff of the following localities: Alleghany County, Bedford County, Botetourt County, Craig County, Roanoke County, City of Covington, City of Salem, and Town of Vinton.

Temple L. Kessinger, Jr., Mayor, City of Covington, welcomed all representatives and introduced Allen L. Dressler, Director, Parks and Recreation, City of Covington, for an overview of the history of the Jackson River Sports Complex.

Mr. Strickland advised that the Regional Commission has been working over the last two months to establish a regional loan program in conjunction with the National Development Council's Grow America Fund to promote entrepreneurial development in the region, as well as expansion of existing small businesses; three local governments have agreed to participate and two other localities are considering participation; and the Regional Commission would like to have commitments from interested governments no later than May 30 to ensure that the loan program will begin on September 1, 2004.

Mr. Strickland recognized the efforts of local governments that are participants in the Early Action Compact to reduce ozone contamination in the Roanoke Valley; the Regional Commission and local governments held a press conference on April 22 which received significant coverage, and continue to work with regional news media to implement "Ozone Action Alert Days" to let businesses and citizens know when ozone levels reach a critical level, by encouraging them to carpool, ride the bus, or pursue other means of transportation to help reduce ozone levels. He also noted that an alert process is being formulated (without using colors) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is considering allowing the posting of ozone action alerts on signs along interstate highways.

He stated that the Regional Commission and the Roanoke Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) are currently working with the New River Valley MPO to hold a joint meeting in the summer to discuss transportation issues of concern for both areas, which will address one of the goals in the Regional Economic Strategy. In addition, Planning District Commissions and MPO's along Interstate 81 will begin holding joint meetings in the summer or early fall to discuss issues related to the expansion of Interstate 81, as well as development of rail freight service to help reduce truck traffic along interstate highways.

Mr. Strickland further noted that the Roanoke area is a proposed site to begin assessing tolls on Interstate 81; consultants recently contacted him regarding an assessment of the impact of the tolls; and he has encouraged various localities to express to VDOT and STAR Solutions their belief that tolls should not be assessed on highways running through economic regions, as well as concerns regarding the potential diversion of traffic to avoid tolls.

#### OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Ralph K. Smith was presented with a plaque in recognition of his vision for the region, and in gratitude and appreciation for opening the doors of communication and cooperation by initiating the Regional Leadership Summit.

Mayor Smith expressed appreciation for the support, cooperation and friendship throughout the region and encouraged member localities to continue their efforts toward improvement of the region.

Bobby G. Pollard, Chair, Bedford County Board of Supervisors, advised that the next meeting of the Leadership Summit will be hosted by the County of Bedford; Bedford County will soon celebrate its 250<sup>th</sup> birthday and invitations will be extended to participating jurisdictions upon establishment of the meeting date and location.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting of Roanoke City Council adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

A P P R O V E D

ATTEST:

Mary F. Parker  
City Clerk

Ralph K. Smith  
Mayor

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